3. **Construction of vishramsthali at Dargah Sharief at Ajmer:** The work of site survey, soil testing for foundation, preparation of master plan etc. have been completed. Also architectural drawings for Dormitory, Kitchen, Dining, Toilets and Guest House have been prepared by Senior Architect of CPWD. The same have been submitted to the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation and Dargah Committee for necessary approval. The approval is still awaited. After getting approval, the tender process will be started. The work will started within two months of the approval of drawings.

**Schemes to attract foreign tourists**

†769. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which have attracted the maximum number of foreign tourists during the last three years;

(b) the details of the schemes implemented by the Central Government to attract the foreign tourists;

(c) the profit earned by the tourism sector from the said schemes; and

(d) the percentage of the tourism sector out of the total foreign revenue earned by the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) According to estimated figures, maximum number of visits by foreign tourists were recorded in the State of Maharashtra during the years 2001 and 2003. However, during 2002, the number of visits by foreign tourists were maximum in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b)The Department of Tourism, Government of India carries out tourism promotion activities overseas through its 13 foreign offices. The department helps in creation of tourism infrastructure through its schemes of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits and Products/Infrastructure and Destination Development. Besides, the Department of Tourism also carries out human resource development activities through Institutes of Hotel Management and under the scheme of Capacity Building for service providers.

(c) With the implementation of the above schemes and also due to the other measures taken, the estimated foreign exchange earnings through

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

tourism has increased to US$ 3945 million during the year 2003-04 from US$ 3029 million earned during the year 2002-03, indicating an increase of about 30%.

(d) According to figures compiled by Reserve Bank of India, the share of foreign exchange earnings through tourism sector as compared to the total foreign revenue during the year 2003-04 is 3.43%.

**Flow of foreign currency in tourism sector**

†770. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foreign currency flow into the country;

(b) whether there has been a decline in flow of foreign currency in the tourism sector in comparison to last year; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the plans of Government to meet this deficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Information regarding flow of foreign currency in the country is not maintained by Ministry of Tourism. However, as per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, total Current Account Receipts during the year 2003-04 has been US$ 1,14,891 million compared to US$ 95,885 million during the year 2002-03.

(b) No, Sir. As per the information compiled by Reserve Bank of India for travel sector, earnings from tourism during the year 2003-04 has been US$ 3945 million compared to US$ 3029 million during the year 2002-03, showing an increase of 30 per cent during the year 2003-04.

(c) Does not arise.

**Special drive for foreign tourists**

†771. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the arrival of foreign tourists to India during the last year was as per the target;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government will formulate an action plan by organising a special drive for the convenience of foreign tourists to achieve the yearly targets?

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